

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SERIAL NO.: (International Serial No. PCT/IT2005/000212)

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TITLE: THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR
CASSETTES OR READY-TO-USE PACKAGES

REMARKS ON PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In conjunction with the filing of the present application, and prior to an initial Official Action on this matter, please amend the above-identified application as provided in the attached Marked Up Copy and Substitute Specification.

Please note that the following amendments in the Substitute Specification apply to the attached specification and claims labeled for "U.S. filing". This combined application incorporates the original application and any amendments or annex to the International Application in the proper order, including the correct original and substitute pages, claims and drawing sheets.

In this preliminary amendment, please consider the following remarks in conjunction with the amendments to the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment has been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a more proper U.S. format. In particular, certain grammatical and idiomatic

inconsistencies have been corrected by amendment to the specification, and the application is corrected for certain typographical errors found in the originally submitted application. No new matter has been added by these amendments. The present application incorporates the original filing including any amendments made in the international filing. There was no amendment in the International Application, and there is no annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report. There were no changes made in the annex to the IPER. The International Application was presented in the English language, as published, so an English translation is not required. The original priority document is in the Italian language..

The Claims and Abstract have been amended so as to conform with U.S. requirements and so as to remove multiple dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment be entered prior to an initial Official Action on the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

September 29, 2006

/s/ Andrew W. Chu

Date

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CLAIMS

We claim:

1. (Currently amended) ~~THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CASSETTES OR READY-TO-USE PACKAGES~~ A thermal transfer printer/labeller for cassettes or ready-to-use packages, said printer/labeller comprising:

an enclosing structure (1), complete with motor drives, for printing ribbons (3) and receiving ribbons (9, 9'), which may be said motor drives being joined in a thermal printhead (7), characterised in that the; spool of printing ribbon (3), the spool of receiving ribbon (9, 9') or both, are contained in special cassettes (2), (14). (15), or ready-to-use packages,

~~the a printing cassette (2), of with a shape and size depending on the types of a type of printing ribbon, may suitably said printing ribbon having a spool contained in said printing cassette, said printing cassette accommodating a accommodate the take-up core (4) and said spool of said printing ribbon (3), the core and spool have having a central hole through which a driving device (5) may be is inserted, the;~~

~~a first receiving cassette (14) has having an asymmetric conformation, said receiving ribbon having a spool contained in said receiving cassette, such as to contain the said receiving cassette containing said spool of the ribbon medium (9') and the a take-up core (13), the core and spool have having a central hole through which another driving device (10) may be is inserted, the ; and~~

~~a second receiving cassette (15) has having a composite form, distinct from the previous ones, in order that its said printing cassette and said first receiving cassette, said second receiving cassette having a front part may contain the containing a spool of said printing ribbon (3) and said take-up core (4) while the of said printing cassette, and a rear part holds the holding said~~

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spool of ~~the~~ said ribbon medium (9) and said take-up core (13), which similarly have of said first receiving cassette, said front part and said rear part having a central hole to accommodate the driving devices (5) and (10) for the respective drives.

Further characterised in that the printing apparatus (1) features of said printing cassette and said first receiving cassette; wherein the driving devices are two externally motorised driving devices (5) and (10), which also serve as a motorized and guide for introducing the cassettes (2), (14), (15), and moreover features each driving device having a thermal printhead (7) whose and a position may be adjusted via a device (6) with which it is made integral with each driving device, each driving device having a series of idle rollers (11), a series of motorised motorized rollers (12) and a rubber-coated drive roller (8).

2. (Currently amended) ~~THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CASSETTES OR READY-TO-USE PACKAGES~~ The printer/labeller according to the main claim, characterised in that the invention includes Claim 1, further comprising:

control devices for locking ~~the~~ said drive mechanisms (5,10), and devices (6) for rewinding and checking the ribbons for wear.

3. (Currently amended) ~~THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CASSETTES OR READY-TO-USE PACKAGES~~ The printer/labeller according to the main claim, characterised in that the specific devices for picking up, feeding out and positioning the ribbons are, in all four versions, Claim 1, wherein said printing cassette, said first receiving cassette and said second receiving cassette are configured exclusively for ribbons contained in cassettes or equivalent quick-load packages.

4. (Currently amended) ~~THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR CASSETTES OR READY-TO-USE PACKAGES~~ The printer/labeller according

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to the main claim, characterised in that Claim 1, wherein the cassettes are the "ready-to-use package" essentially comprises, each being comprised of a spool and take-up core rigidly connected by means of any a rigid support.